

## Highlights from Governor Kenny C. Guinn's 2005 State of the State Address

- Rainy Day Fund:** The Governor proposes to increase the Fund to \$200 million to protect against future economic challenges.
- Taxpayer Rebate:** The Governor proposes to rebate \$300 million of our gaming and sales tax surplus through rebates of 2004 DMV registrations, up to \$300 per vehicle.
- Millennium Scholarship:** The Governor proposes bonding unclaimed property revenue to generate \$100 million to safeguard the scholarships for the next decade.
- Higher Education:** The Budget includes over \$250 million in new spending for faculty, infrastructure and research for the current and 7,000 new students.
- K-12 Education:** The Governor's budget includes over \$500 million in new funding for education to accommodate 35,000 new students. It also continues funding for textbooks, supplies, technology, teacher training, signing bonuses and retention pay.
- Failing Schools Plan:** The Governor proposes \$100 million be directed to schools on failure and warning lists. This money will be used to address specific needs of individual schools. Uses could include full-day kindergarten, ELL support, literacy instruction and staff development. It comes with strict accountability and focuses on the need for strong leadership. Our "at-risk" schools need to be "no-risk" schools.
- Health & Human Services:** The Governor's budget includes over \$275 million in new money for important programs and services. In total, \$1.6 billion of the general fund budget is dedicated to this area. Over \$100 million is dedicated to mental health, with \$45 million targeted to address the emergency room crisis in Clark County. Money is also dedicated to help the mentally and physically disabled better access services and stay with their families and out of state institutions.
- The Governor continues or expands funding for Senior Rx and the Nevada Check Up insurance program for kids; increases access to prenatal care for expectant moms; and funds a

legislative proposal to help small business employees access private health insurance.

**Health Care for All NV:** The budget includes \$11 million to support new partnerships to fight cancer and Alzheimer's. The money will jump-start the joint work of the University School of Medicine and the Nevada Cancer Institute and Ruvo Center for Alzheimer's Care and Research.

The budget also provides \$4.5 million to fund 40 new residency and fellowship slots at the Medical School to train and keep more doctors in Nevada.

**Economic Development:** The Governor's budget supports the success of our economic diversification in our cities by funding the work of NDA and EDAWN with \$10 million in new grants. Rural Nevada will receive an additional \$1 million to support their economic development efforts, and a renewed focus from the Commissions on Tourism and Economic Development.

**Transportation and DMV:** The Governor funds nearly \$1 billion in transportation projects to build new roadways, to address the gridlock in our cities and maintain our extensive highway system. DMV customers will continue to enjoy shorter wait times and have more technology options to keep them out of line altogether.

**Public Employees:** The Governor proposes a COLA of 2% each year of the biennium for state and university employees and teachers. In addition, correctional and public safety officers and certain critical positions will see a pay scale increase of approx. 10%.

In the second year, a portion of teacher raises will be set-aside for incentive pay for meeting school progress benchmarks.

The Governor proposes saving nearly \$500 million over the coming years by no longer offering a retiree health insurance subsidy to new employees.

**Housing Initiative:** The Governor is proposing a bold new plan to make homes more affordable for hard working Nevadans. The state will acquire federal land and work with private developers to build new housing at a reasonable cost. The price of the home will not include the value of the underlying land.